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Current project schedule:

Value Planning Initiative August— October 2001

Public Information Meeting November 2001

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Please contact the representatives listed above if you have questions or concerns about this project

Highway 51/29 Corridor **Project**

Welcome to the first in a series of public information meetings that will be conducted over the next eight years as the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) proceeds into the design and construction phases of the Highway 51/29 Project.

Highway 51 is the primary north-south route through central Wisconsin. It serves interstate travel between Wisconsin and the nation as a long-haul automobile and truck carrier route. The 5.4 mile segment of Highway 51, between Fox Glove Road and Bridge Street, carries interstate traffic for Highways 51 and 29. It also serves as a local commuter route for the Wausau metropolitan area. The combination of interstate and local traffic on this roadway results in a heavily traveled corridor that is expected to experience increased congestion in the future.

The goal of the corridor project is to upgrade Highway 51/29 to meet the future needs of the traveling public by expanding the number of lanes and improving the interchanges to more efficiently handle higher traffic volumes. The combination of improvements to the highway and the local arterial system will provide a safer, more efficient transportation system within the Wausau metropolitan area.

WisDOT recently formed the Highway 51/29 Corridor Management Team to manage the design and construction phases of this project. Team members include four WisDOT staff and representatives from three design consultant firms. The Highway 51 Corridor Team manager is Douglas Ross.

Projects in the Wausau area

During the next eight years, there will be many improvements to the Wausau area transportation system. The local roadway projects are scheduled for construction prior to work beginning on Highway 51/29 to provide efficient alternative routes for motorists. The completion of the roadway improvement projects in the Wausau Metropolitan area will provide a transportation system that will serve the area's needs for years into the future. Construction schedules have been planned to minimize impacts to the traveling public by limiting the number of projects constructed in any given year.

What's next?

One of the first steps in the design process will be to begin a Value Planning Initiative to formulate a design for the Highway 29 west interchange.

A team including local residents and individuals from local units of government and area businesses will evaluate alternatives for the Highway 29 west interchange. The goal is to gain local input during the design process for the interchange, and to formulate an alternative that best meets the needs of the area and the traveling public.



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